



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Robert M. Heggie, Esq.
Stewart, Mittleman, Heggie & Henry LLC
222 S. Central Avenue, Suite 501
St. Louis, MO 63105

MAY 14 2009

Re: MUR 6099
Sam Page et al.

Dear Mr. Heggie:

On October 27, 2008, the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") notified your clients, Sam Page, Page of Missouri, and Barbara Hoffman, in her official capacity as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. On May 7, 2009, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint and information provided by your clients, that there is no reason to believe that Sam Page, Page of Missouri, and Barbara Hoffman, in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441e. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which explains the Commission's finding, is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Q. Lockett, the attorney assigned to this matter at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Thomasenia P. Duncan
General Counsel

BY: Susan L. Lebeaux
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

29044243125

1 **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

2 **FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

3
4 **RESPONDENTS: Page for Missouri and Barbara Hoffman, MUR 6099**
5 **in her official capacity as treasurer**
6 **Sam Page**

7
8 **I. INTRODUCTION**

9
10 The complaint in this matter alleges that Missouri State Representative Sam Page and his
11 state political committee, Page for Missouri and Barbara Hoffman, in her official capacity as
12 treasurer ("Committee"), knowingly and willfully accepted a prohibited \$10,000 campaign
13 contribution for his campaign from a foreign corporation, Waverley Glen Systems Ltd.
14 ("Waverley Glen"), a Canadian company wholly-owned by Prism Medical Ltd., another
15 Canadian corporation. As discussed below, the available information indicates that another
16 wholly-owned subsidiary of Prism Medical, Ergosafe Products LLC ("Ergosafe"), a domestic
17 corporation, made the contribution. As the Commission's regulations allow domestic
18 subsidiaries of foreign contributions to make contributions if they meet certain criteria, and it
19 appears that Ergosafe has satisfied those requirements, the Commission has determined to find
20 no reason to believe that Sam Page and Page for Missouri and Barbara Hoffman, in her official
21 capacity as treasurer, accepted an impermissible foreign contribution in violation of 2 U.S.C.
22 § 441e.

23 **II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

24 **A. Facts**

25 Prism Medical Ltd. ("Prism Group") is a foreign corporation based in Canada that
26 focuses on the manufacture, distribution, sale, and installation of lift, transfer and handling
27 devices. One of its subsidiaries is Waverley Glen, a foreign corporation likewise based in

29044243126

1 Canada. Ergosafe, while also a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Prism Group, is a domestic
2 corporation unlike Waverley Glen. Specifically, Ergosafe is a Delaware corporation registered
3 to conduct business in Missouri. Charley Wallace, a U.S. citizen, is the President of both
4 Waverley Glen and Ergosafe, and is the Chief Operating Officer of the Prism Group.

5 Since 2003, Dr. Sam Page has served in the Missouri House of Representatives. While
6 still holding that office, on June 5, 2007, Dr. Page announced his candidacy for the Democratic
7 nomination for the office of Lieutenant Governor of Missouri. Page's state political committee,
8 Page for Missouri, which registers and files reports with the state of Missouri, accepted
9 contributions for this campaign.

10 On August 28, 2008, a Missouri state law came into effect effectively repealing political
11 contribution limits. Tony Messenger, *Big Money gives Jolt to Missouri Governor's Race*, St.
12 Louis Post-Dispatch, September 3, 2008. Thereafter, in its state disclosure reports, the
13 Committee reported receipt of a \$10,000 contribution on October 4, 2008 from "Waverly Glenn
14 [sic]." According to the complaint and accompanying documents, the Committee received this
15 contribution via corporate check dated September 25, 2008. The check was drawn on the bank
16 account of "Waverley Glen, a Prism Medical Company," and is made payable to "Page for
17 Missouri." The photocopied check also contains two signatures from Waverley Glen
18 personnel—neither of whom is Charley Wallace—and was mailed in an envelope containing the
19 Waverley Glen logo and the following address: 87 Sharer Road, Vaughan, Ontario, Canada. On
20 October 17, 2008, the Committee amended its prior disclosure of the contribution in question,
21 replacing the Vaughan Ontario address with a St. Louis, Missouri address, but leaving the
22 contributor as Waverley Glen.

29044243127

1 The complaint maintains that Waverley Glen, the foreign corporation, made the
2 contribution, noting that Waverley Glen personnel not only signed the check, but also mailed the
3 check from Waverley Glen's address in Canada to the Committee. The complaint also states that
4 the Committee's subsequent amendment of the contribution to reflect a U.S. address instead of
5 the Canadian address, suggests not only that a foreign contribution had been made and accepted,
6 but that the Committee was attempting to conceal it.

7 In its response, the Committee maintains that the contribution was not made by a foreign
8 national, but rather by Ergosafe, a U.S. subsidiary of a foreign corporation "styled in the brand
9 name of 'Waverley Glen, A Prism Medical Company.'" Committee Response at 1. The
10 Committee states that Ergosafe is not a foreign national, as it is a Delaware Corporation that
11 operates in Missouri. Additionally, the Committee stated that it had previously received an
12 individual contribution from Charley Wallace, was aware that he was the President of Ergosafe
13 and other Prism Group subsidiaries, and knew, from Wallace's personal contribution to the
14 campaign that the check from Waverley Glen, A Prism Medical Company, was not from a
15 foreign national. *Id.* at 2. Accordingly, the Committee concludes that it did not knowingly
16 accept a contribution from a foreign national. *Id.* at 3.

17 The Committee's response also states that it was the Respondents' understanding that
18 Ergosafe made the contribution at the direction of its President Charley Wallace, and the
19 contribution was drawn from Ergosafe's domestic bank account with HSBC Bank USA.
20 Additional information also indicates that since Mr. Wallace was not in Ergosafe's Missouri
21 office when he authorized payment of the contribution, he was unable to physically sign the
22 contribution check. Therefore, Mr. Wallace apparently contacted the corporate headquarters of
23 Ergosafe's parent in Canada and directed a check to be issued on Ergosafe's behalf. The

29044243128

1 available information also includes a letter from HSBC bank dated November 7, 2008,
2 confirming that Ergosafe maintains an account with that bank.

3 **B. Analysis**

4 The Act defines "contribution" as anything of value made by any person for the purpose
5 of influencing any election for Federal office. 2 U.S.C. § 431(8)(A)(i). It is unlawful for a
6 foreign national, directly or indirectly, to make a contribution or donation of money or other
7 thing of value, or make an expenditure in connection with a federal, state, or local election.
8 2 U.S.C. § 441e(a)(1)(A); 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(b). A "foreign national" is an individual who is
9 not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States and who is not lawfully
10 admitted for permanent residence. 2 U.S.C. § 441e(b)(2). The term also encompasses "a
11 partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized
12 under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country." 2 U.S.C.
13 § 441e(b)(1) (citing 22 U.S.C. § 611(b)(3)).

14 Commission regulations implementing 2 U.S.C. § 441e prohibit foreign nationals from
15 directing, dictating, controlling, or directly or indirectly participating in the decision-making
16 process of any person, including a corporation, with regard to that person's federal or nonfederal
17 election-related activities, such as decisions relating to making contributions, expenditures or
18 disbursements in connection with elections for any local, state, or federal office or decisions
19 concerning the administration of a political committee. 11 C.F.R § 110.20(i).

20 In addressing the issue of whether a domestic subsidiary of a foreign national, like
21 Ergosafe, may make contributions in connection with local, state or federal campaigns for
22 political office, the Commission has looked to two factors when giving advice to requestors: the
23 source of the funds used to make the contributions and the nationality status of the decision

29044243129

1 makers. See Advisory Opinion 2006-15 (TransCanada). Regarding the source of funds used to
2 make contributions in connection with local, state or federal elections, a domestic corporation is
3 not permitted to make such contributions when the source of funds is a foreign national, because
4 this essentially permits the foreign national to make contributions indirectly when it could not do
5 so directly. See Advisory Opinion 1989-20 (Kuilima)(Because Asahi Japan, the foreign parent
6 company, is Kuilima's predominant source of funds, it would essentially be making a
7 contribution to the committee through Kuilima).

8 Even if the funds used for political contributions by a domestic company with foreign
9 ownership are generated domestically, the Commission has also considered the nationality status
10 of the decision makers to determine the legality of the contributions. The Commission has
11 conditioned its approval of contributions by domestic subsidiaries of foreign nationals by
12 requiring that no director or officer of the subsidiary or its parent, or any other person who is a
13 foreign national, participate in any way in the decision-making process regarding the
14 contributions. 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(i); See Advisory Opinion 1985-3 (Diridon)(No person who is
15 a foreign national under 2 U.S.C. § 441e can have any decision-making role or control with
16 respect to any political contribution made by UTDC, Inc.). Thus, the Act prohibits contributions
17 from foreign nationals, as well as contributions from domestic companies where either the funds
18 originate from a foreign national source or a foreign national is involved in decisions concerning
19 the making of the contribution. 2 U.S.C. § 441e; 11 C.F.R. §§ 110.20(b) and (i).

20 The available information indicates that Ergosafe had sufficient monies from its U.S.
21 domestic operations to make the contribution at issue in this matter, without any assistance or
22 consideration whatsoever from its Canadian parent companies, and that the contribution was
23 paid by funds derived solely from Ergosafe's revenues generated by sales made to U.S.

29044243130

1 customers. Additionally, an HSBC bank statement shows that Ergosafe had maintained an
2 account balance ranging from \$236,000 to \$568,000 during the month in which the \$10,000
3 contribution was drawn from its checking account, with nearly \$400,000 in payments from a
4 single U.S. customer, Veterans Medical Equipment Sales, LLC. The bank statement also
5 confirms that the \$10,000 contribution was drawn from the HSBC account, as check no. 1013,
6 which matches the check number on the photocopied contribution check and is listed among the
7 items paid on the account, with the same \$10,000 amount.

8 The available information also suggests that Charley Wallace, a U.S. citizen and
9 President of Ergosafe, was the sole person involved in deciding to make this contribution and
10 thereafter executing the contribution, and that he had the authority to make the contribution to
11 the Committee without the foreign parent's approval.

12 Based on these factors, Ergosafe's contribution appears to satisfy the criteria for domestic
13 subsidiaries of foreign nationals, and that a foreign contribution did not occur. Therefore, the
14 Commission has determined to find no reason to believe that Sam Page and Page for Missouri
15 and Barbara Hoffman, in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441e by accepting
16 an impermissible foreign contribution.

29044243131